



**Ontario Horticultural Association District 9  
Annual General Meeting  
Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Hosted by Grimsby Garden Club  
18 Livingstone Ave., Grimsby**



The meeting was called to order by District Director, Margaret Tanaszi, who welcomed everyone present and welcomed Vicky Culbert, District Director of District 8, representing the Ontario Horticultural Association.

O Canada was sung, led by Susan Lusted.

Grimsby Garden Club President Stephen Hargreaves, greeted and welcomed everyone. Stephen introduced Grimsby Mayor Jeff Jordan, who brought greetings from the Town.

**Minutes of the Spring Annual General Meeting, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

**MOTION:** that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 be approved. Moved by Debbie Eggleton and seconded by Pat Konkle. The motion passed.

**Roll Call of District Societies**

Recording Secretary, Maggie Corner took the roll call

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Dunnville           | 4         |
| Fort Erie           | 0         |
| Grimsby             | 5         |
| Lincoln             | 3         |
| Niagara Falls       | 6         |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | 6         |
| Pelham              | 13        |
| Port Colborne       | 3         |
| Ridgeway & District | 1         |
| St. Catharines      | 5         |
| Smithville          | 1         |
| Thorold             | 6         |
| Welland             | 5         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>58</b> |

**Treasurer's Report**

Alan Daniels, Treasurer gave the financial report for 2018

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Balance of as January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018   | \$3,856.79 |
| Total Receipts for 2018                        | \$3,683.22 |
| Total Expenses for 2018                        | \$2,558.14 |
| Balance as of December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018 | \$4,981.37 |
| Savings Bonds                                  | \$5,309.30 |

**MOTION:** that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.  
Moved by Susan Lusted, seconded by Russ Boles. The motion passed.

**Old/New Business**

Margaret reported:

The Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards Book was not yet ready, it is still being edited, and will not be ready for the convention. If a club would like to purchase some books, please give your order to Margaret.

The new OHA website is now live with the old site taken down. The website is a very modern design and easy to use. The response so far has been positive although some people reported they found it hard to navigate.

In March 2019 the OHA Board approved the new Vision, Mission and Goals for the organization as follows:

**VISION:** Inspire Ontarians to promote and share gardening.

**MISSION:** The OHA is a volunteer charitable organization that provides leadership, education and promotes interest in gardening and related environmental issues with horticultural societies and like-minded organizations.

**GOAL:** Provide recognition, awards and grants throughout Ontario.

**GOAL:** Develop and support programs for all ages encouraging gardening, community beautification, environmental enhancement and conservation.

**GOAL:** Provide resources for horticultural societies.

**GOAL:** Encourage the development of new horticultural societies.

The 2019 Fall Forum will be hosted by Dunnville Horticultural Society on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The speaker for the Fall Forum will be Kevin Kavanagh from South Coast Gardens and the guest for the Presidents Meeting will be Helen Scutt from OMAFRA who will speaking on governance.

Very generously Rice Road Nurseries donated all the gift cards for the flower show winners and Coles in Grimsby donated gift cards for the photo show winners.

Also Rice Road Nurseries is giving all garden club members 25% off on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Membership cards must be shown.

Three societies in District 9 are celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year: Dunnville, Port Colborne and Thorold. Certificates from the OHA and a letter from the President were awarded to each society/club.

Margaret highlighted two handouts for Society members to take with them from this meeting, the Awards and Grants booklet and a General Guide for Horticultural Society Officers.

Margaret introduced Vicky Culbert, Director for District 8, who brought greetings from the OHA President Catherine Smith.

Vicky highlighted the new OHA website, information being distributed on harassment policies for societies, youth groups, and the Highway for Heroes with a proposed 300,00 new trees being planted. All societies can get involved in this initiative.

### **Election and Installation of Executive**

Susan Lusted, Nominations Chair, introduced the slate of nominees for election. All incumbents returned.

OHA rep. Vicky Culbert installed the new executive.

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| District 9 Director                               | Margaret Tanaszi  |
| Assistant Director                                | Linda Olsson      |
| Assistant Director and<br>Corresponding Secretary | Susan Lusted      |
| Assistant Director                                | Amber Cuthbertson |
| Treasurer   | Alan Daniels      |
| Recording Secretary                               | Maggie Corner     |
| Past District Director                            | Susan Lusted      |

### **Morning Speaker – Cathy Kavassalis**

#### **Getting to Biodiversity**

Cathy opened her remarks by asking if someone would know where you lived by viewing your garden, then showed photos of various gardens and asked guests to guess where they were. She noted that plants have moved all around the world so biodiversity is widespread.

Plants can be unique within an ecosystem, and species in a community are interconnected in a network. 40% of Canadian plant species are in Niagara. We must think about how to save species and plant diversity.

Garden and plant for your conditions e.g. soil. Get to know your native plants. We must support our native species both in plants and insects. Niagara is in seed zone 37 – local genetics make a difference. Know your native flora, choose a diversity of plants, and think about protecting watersheds. Value the richness of life that develops. Advocate for biodiversity and promote connectivity e.g. wildlife corridors. We must support green space and tree planting. When planting think layers - trees, shrubs then plants. Reduce your grass lawn with clover, shrubs etc. Native plants tend to be messier but they can be incorporated with formal plantings.

The loss of animals/insects since the 1960's is devastating. If there is no disease or danger leave fallen dead trees and plants for wildlife habitat, providing water, shelter, food etc. Native trees support double the amount of native birds and insects than non-native. Cathy noted that author Doug Tallamy provides a list of trees that support moths and butterflies and author Heather Holmes' books are a good resource on pollinators.

Margaret thanked Cathy for an informative and lively presentation.

### **Awards and Presentations**

The Doris Lighthouse Award for the greatest increase in membership in the previous year was won by the Fort Erie Horticultural Society (not present).

Amber Cuthbertson announced the flower show winners and prizes were handed out by Margaret Tanaszi. The Best in Show for Design was awarded to Louise Van Atte, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

### **Afternoon Speaker – Sue Clarke, Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture**

The Legacy Garden at Niagara Parks Botanical Garden

The idea of a Legacy Garden, a naturalized garden in an ornamental space, started in 2011 and ground was broken in 2013, trees were removed and grass cleared. There are five sections: Tall Grass Prairie (80% grasses), Oak Savannah(found in open meadow), Riparian Meadow (water area), Sand Barren (grasses and perennials) and Alvar (Rocky Road) (limestone base – small plants).

Students started the construction later that year. Native bees have a home in the garden. A burn is carried out regularly to suppress invasive weeds. The burn only kills the top; under the ground is not touched.

The garden is now lush and interesting, and is home is many birds and animals. Societies can donate to the Legacy Garden.

Dunnville Horticultural Society noted that with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited they developed a prairie garden, after doing a controlled burn to eliminate invasives (Phragmites) and to release nutrients.

Margaret thanked Sue for her insightful presentation.

### **Raffles**

The door prize raffle of prizes provided by each society/club, and the District 9 fundraiser raffle were held.

Margaret Tanaszi thanked the members of the Grimsby Garden Club for their hospitality and ended the meeting by inviting everyone to attend the Fall Forum and Presidents' Meeting on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Dunnville Optimist Hall in Dunnville.

The meeting was then adjourned,.

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Corner